HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A REPORT CARD

PRESENTED TO:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

COMPILED BY:
HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH
WORKING GROUP

MARCH 28, 1996

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The HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH Working Group

David L. Foster, Professor of Public Health, Univ. of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Christie L. Hager, Research Analyst, Joint Committee on Health Care
Julie Hudman, Legislative Aide to Senator Marc R. Pacheco
Lynne Karsten, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association
Maureen Osolnik, Executive Assistant to the Regional Director and Point of Contact, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health provided health status data and presentation. Karen Van Kooy, Research Analyst, Joint Committee on Health Care, assisted in graphic design and production.

HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH[1]*
REPORT CARD

HEALTH STATUS INDICATOR	MASSACHUSETTS TREND[2]	NATIONAL GOAL 2000[3]	GRADE
MAMMOGRAMS WITHIN 2 YEARS	Higher percentage of women over age 50 than U.S. figure	60%	☆
ALCOHOL & DRUG RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES	Decrease in number	5.5[a]	☆
MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES	Continuing decrease	16.8[a]	☆
HOMICIDE	Less than half the U.S. rate	7.2[a]	☆
SUICIDE	Consistently lower than U.S. rate	10.5[a]	☆
TEENAGE BIRTH RATE	Rate is half of U.S. rate, declining since 1990	50[b]	☆
SYPHILIS	Decreases in new cases	10[c]	☆
GONORRHEA	Decreases in new cases	225[c]	☆
CHLAMYDIA	Decreases in new cases	170[c]	☆
LUNG CANCER DEATHS	Increases in incidence among women	42[a]	⇔
HEART DISEASE MORTALITY RATE	Decreases in deaths	100[a]	⇔
CANCER MORTALITY RATE	Increases in deaths	130[a]	⇔
TUBERCULOSIS	The threat remains	3.5[c]	⇔
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	Black infant mortality rate lower than the U.S. rate, but remains higher than white infant mortality	7[d]	⇔
CHILD LEAD POISONING RATE	Rate has halved over the last decade and many cases have been averted	0[e]	⇔
MOTHERS WITH FIRST TRIMESTER CARE	Black and Hispanic mothers less likely to enter prenatal care during their first trimester than white mothers	90%	⇔
ADULT SMOKERS	Below the U.S. percentage and declining	15%	⇔
ASTHMA	Threat remains in older, urban communities	160[f]	⇔
BREAST CANCER DEATHS	Increases in incidence among women	20.6[g]	✓
9TH & 12TH GRADE SMOKERS	Percentage increasing	15%	✓
SEATBELT NON-USE	Lower percentage among adults than U.S.	15%	✓
AIDS	Increases in new cases	43[a]	✓
AIDS CASES ASSOCIATED WITH I.V. DRUG USE	Increase in new cases	25,000[h]	✓
PROSTATE CANCER DEATHS	Increases among men	NA	✓

* For complete guide to Report Card symbols, see second page.

GUIDE FOR
HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH[1]
REPORT CARD

The Grades

☆ Has met or exceeded the national goal 2000

⇔ On par with the most recent U.S. figures

✓ Needs improvement, a public health challenge

References for Numbers

[a] Deaths per 100,000 persons
[b] Rate per 1,000 women ages 15-17
[c] Cases per 100,000 persons
[d] Rate per 1,000 live births
[e] Incidence per 1,000 children tested
[f] Hospitalizations per 100,000
[g] Rate per 100,000 women
[h] Total number of cases

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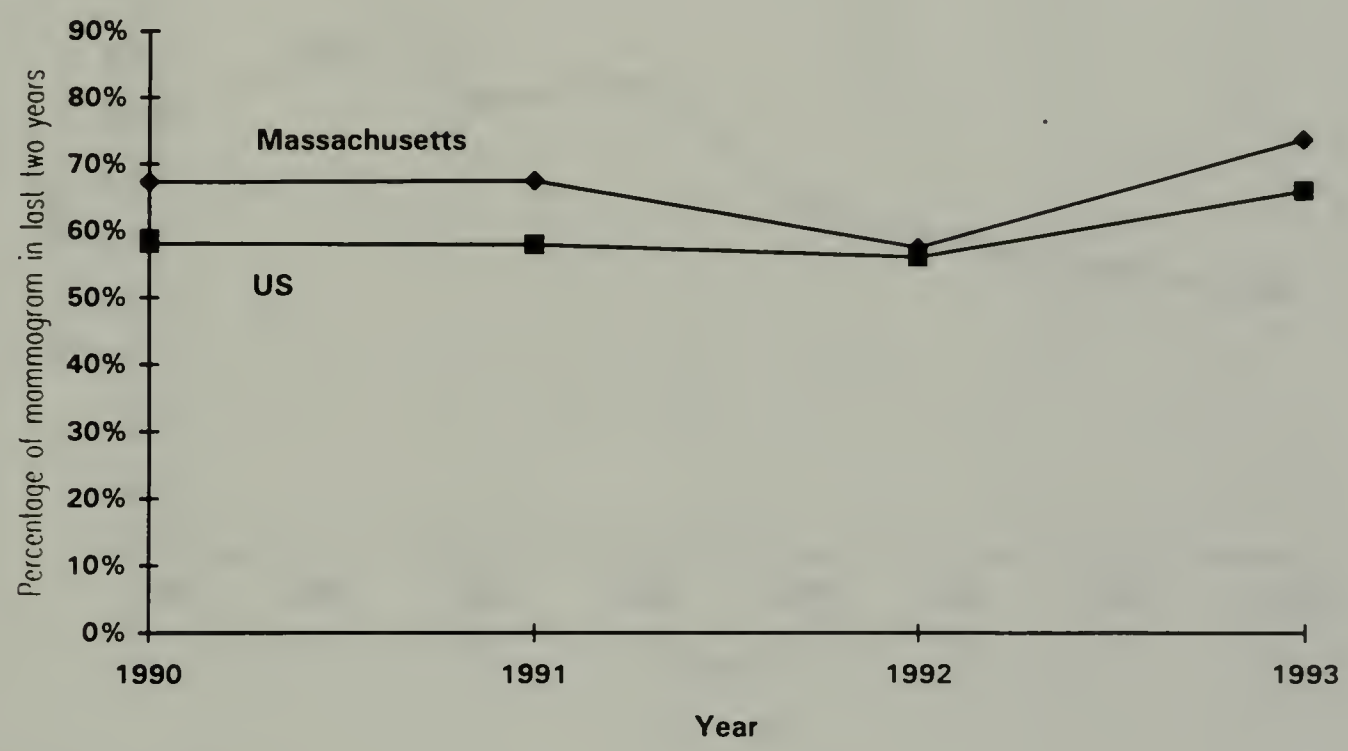
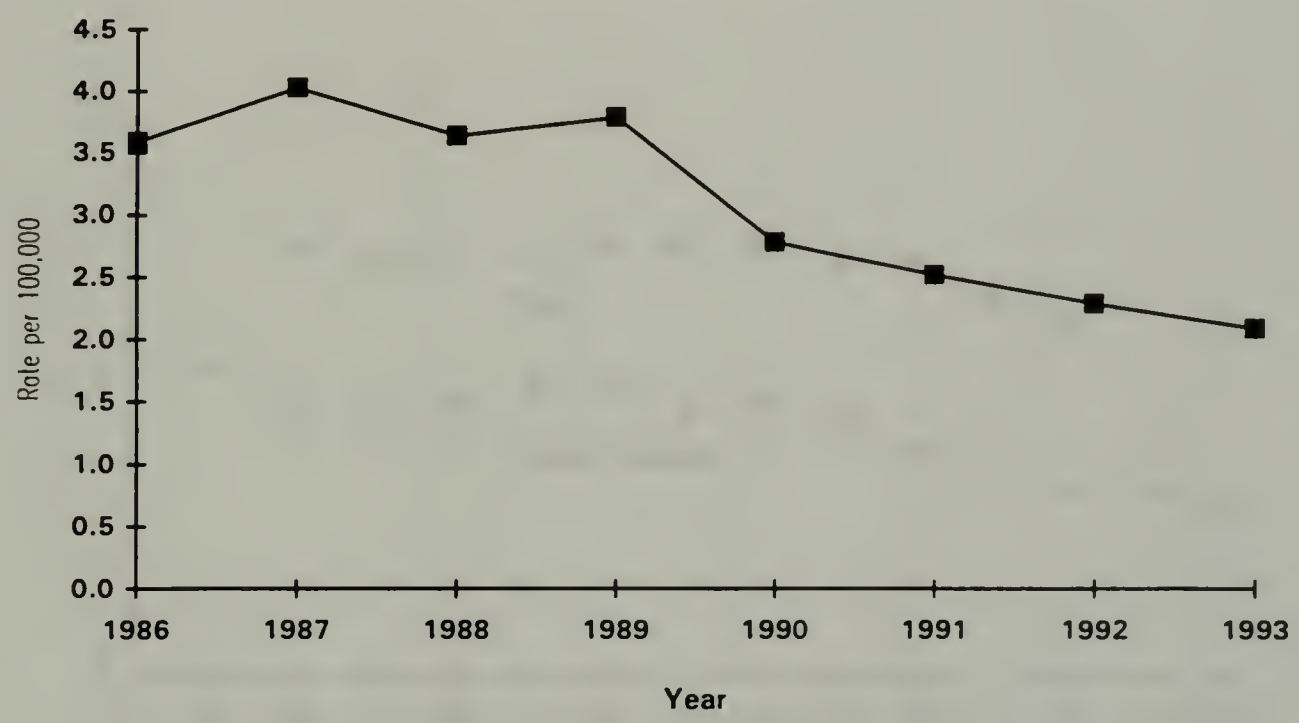
[1] Submitted to the MA Joint Committee on Health Care
[2] Source: MA Dept. of Public Health
[3] Source: Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 91-50212)

Percentage of Women Ages 50 and Older with Mammogram in Last 2 Years Massachusetts and US: 1990-1993[1]



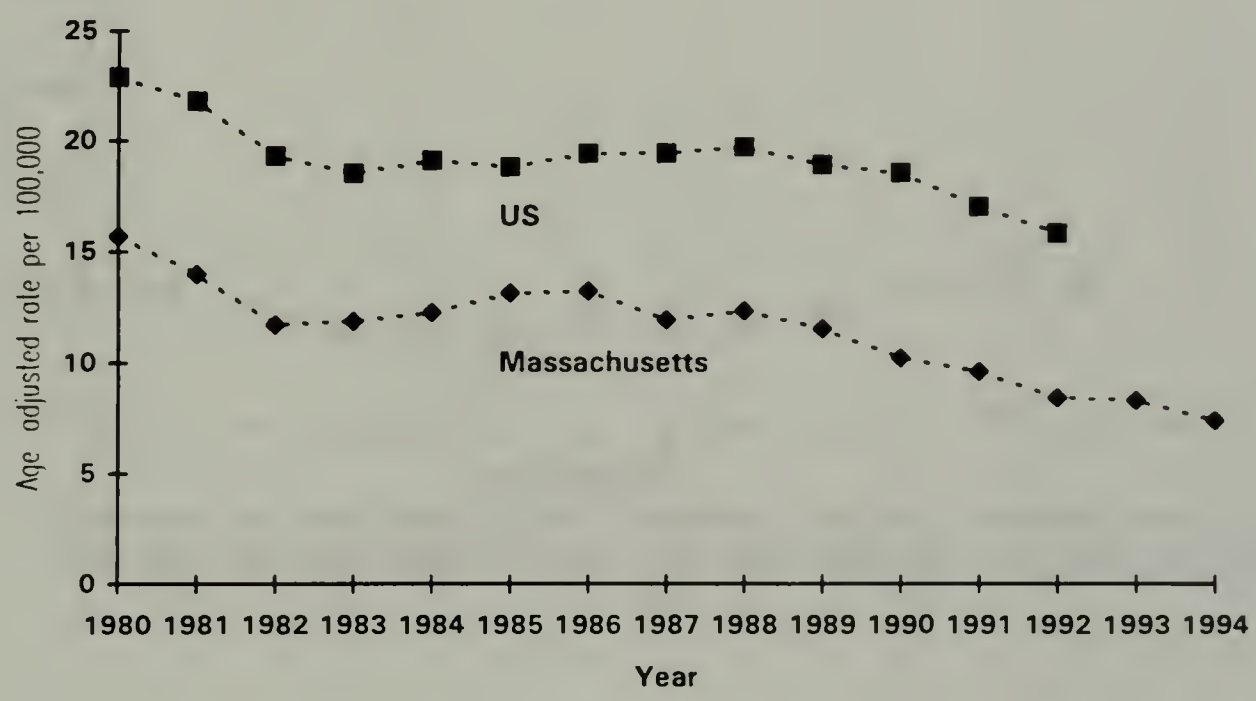
[1] Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Alcohol and Drug Related Traffic Fatalities[1]
Massachusetts: 1986-1993



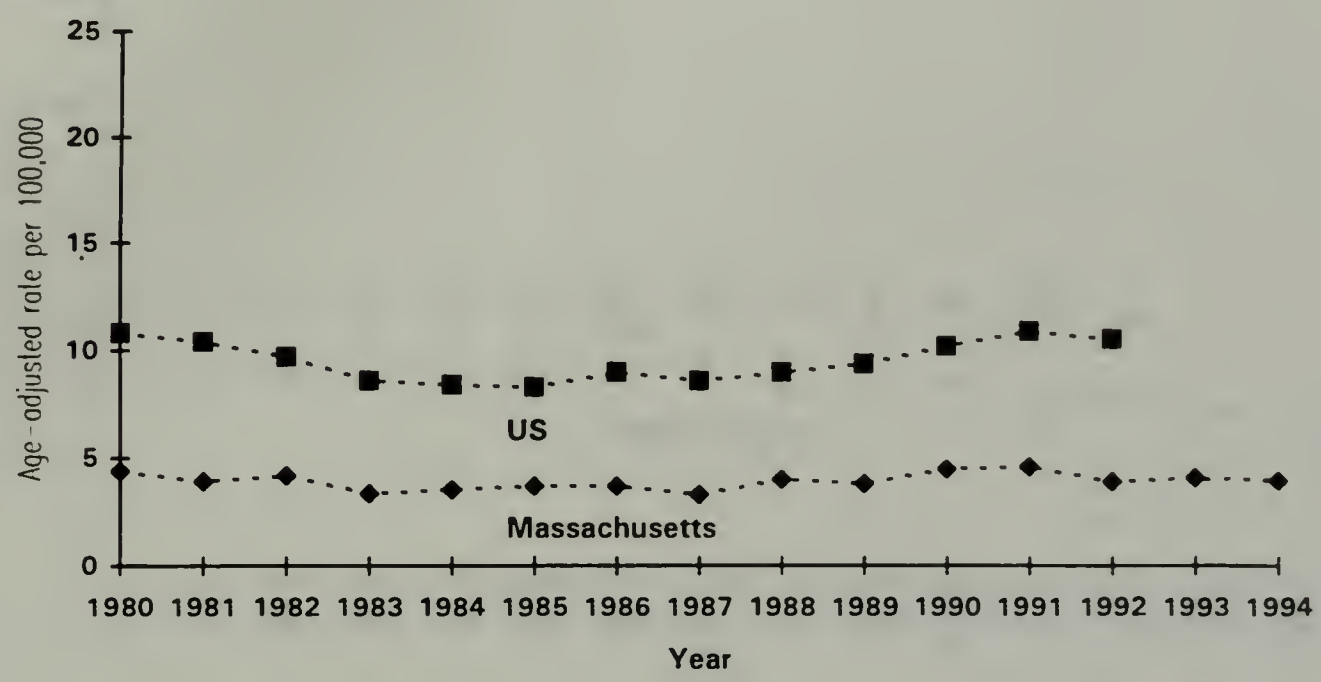
[1] Data Source: Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Accident Fatality Rates[1]
Massachusetts and US: 1980-1994[2]



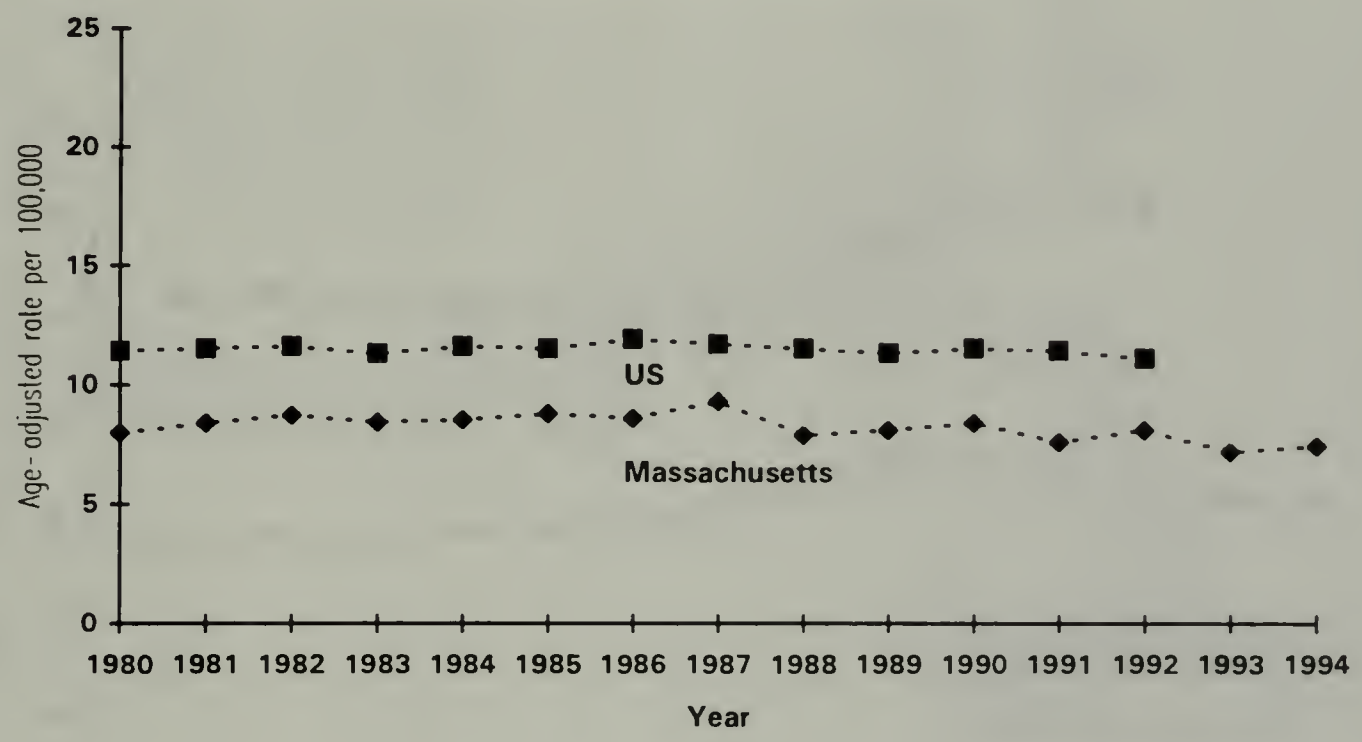
[1] ICD-9 codes E810-E825
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Centers for Health Statistics

Homicide Rates[1]
Massachusetts and US: 1980-1994[2]



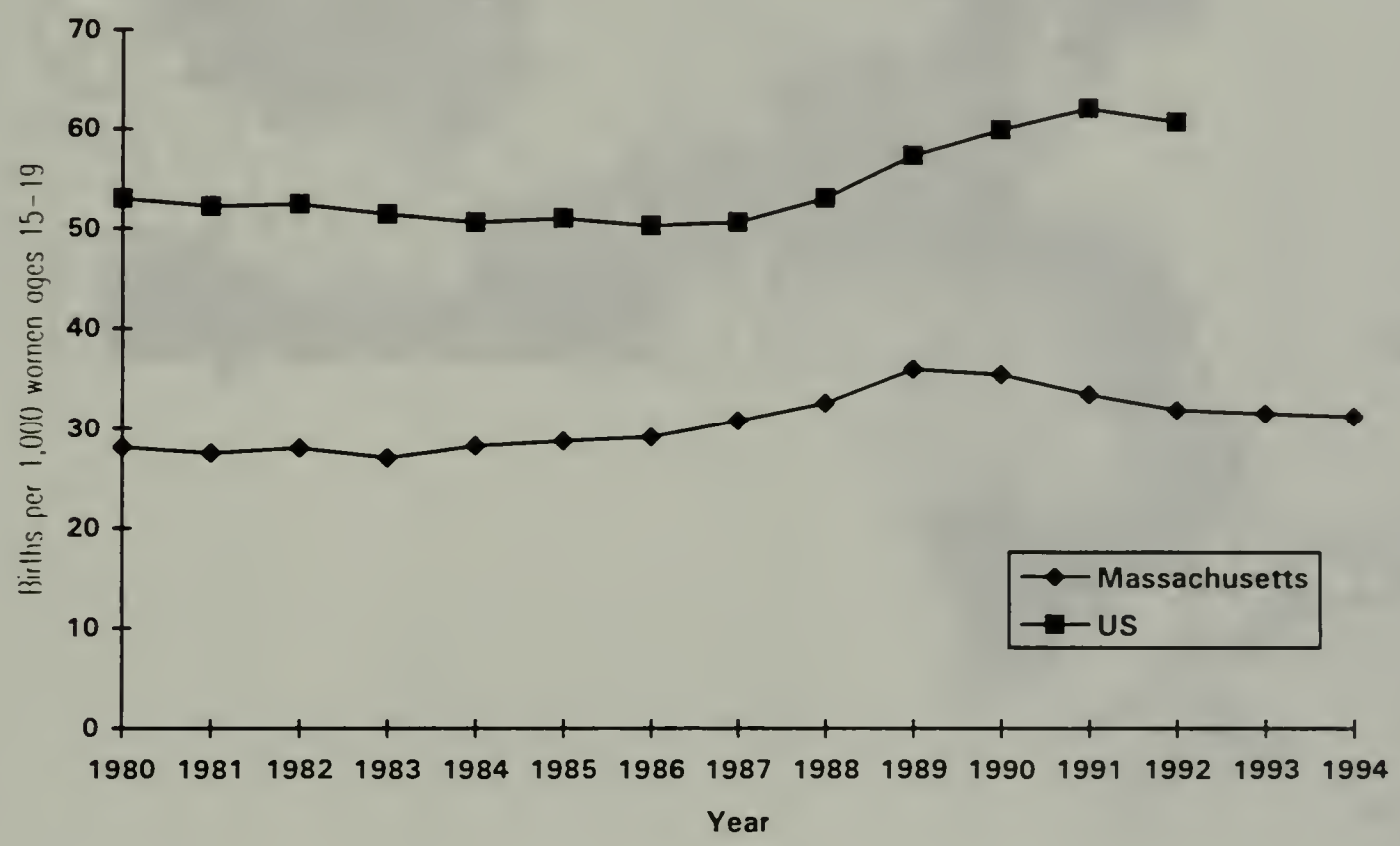
[1] ICD-9 codes E960-E969 for Massachusetts and ICD-9 codes E960-E978 for US(US includes Legal Intervention)
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Centers for Health Statistics

Suicide Rates[1]
Massachusetts and US: 1980-1994[2]



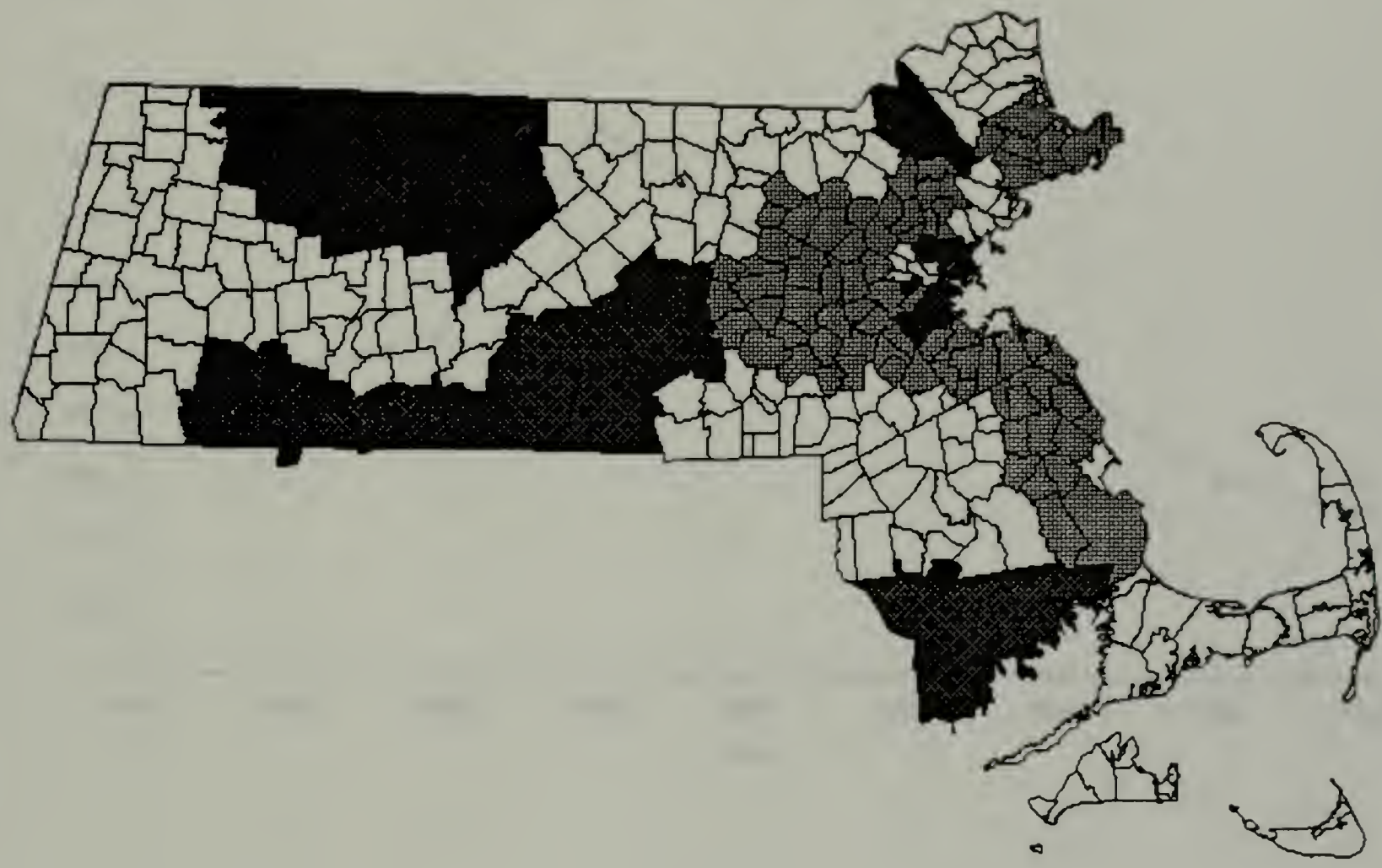
[1] ICD-9 codes E950-E959
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Centers for Health Statistics

Births to Women Ages 15-19
Massachusetts and US: 1980-1994[1]



[1] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Center for Health Statistics

Teen Birth Rates[1] by Community Health Network Area: 1994[2]



- ■ Fourth Quartile: 38.7 to 66.6
- □ Third Quartile: 29.2 to 38.6
- □ Second Quartile: 18.6 to 29.1
- ▩ First Quartile: 4.6 to 18.6

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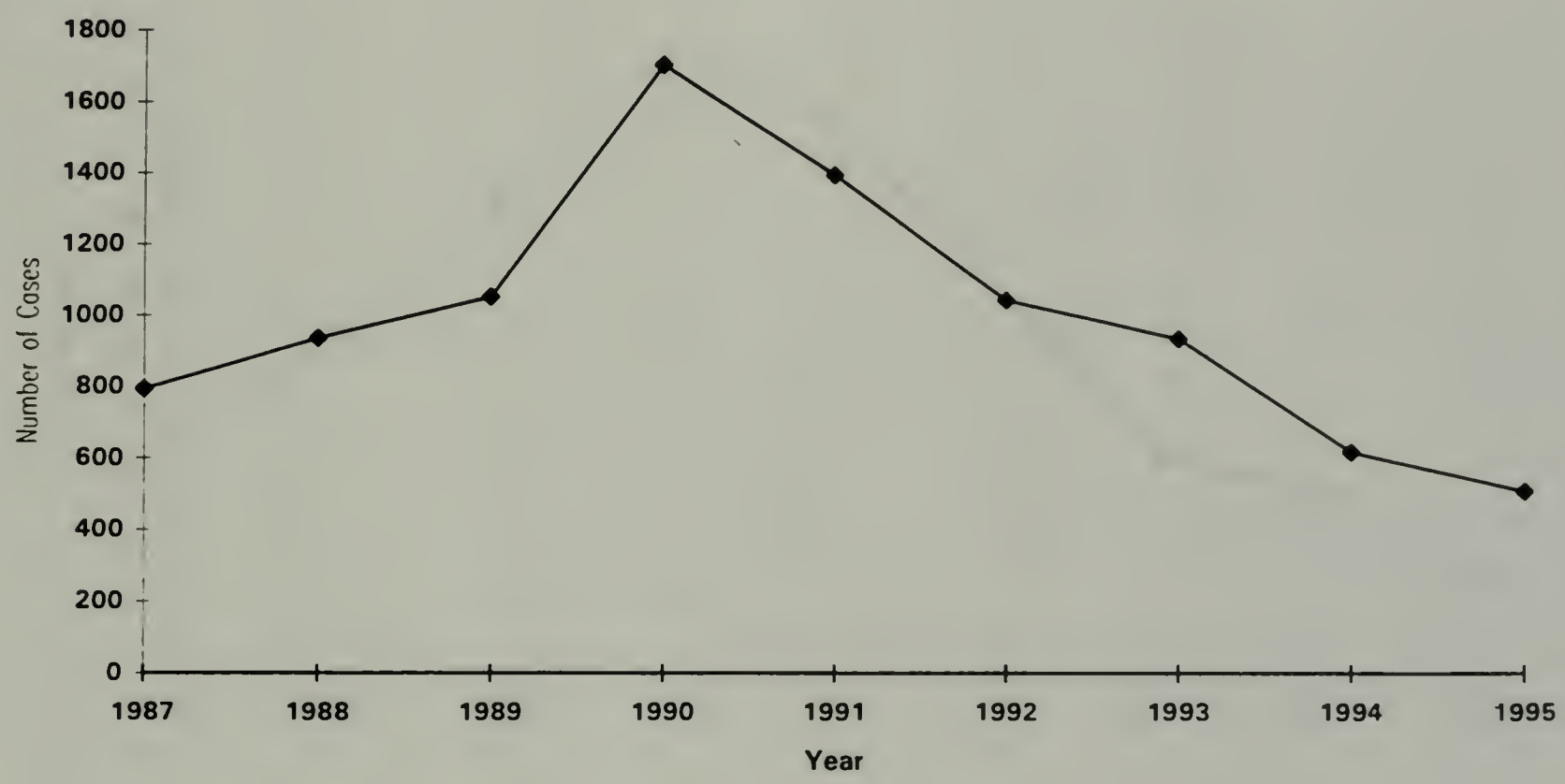
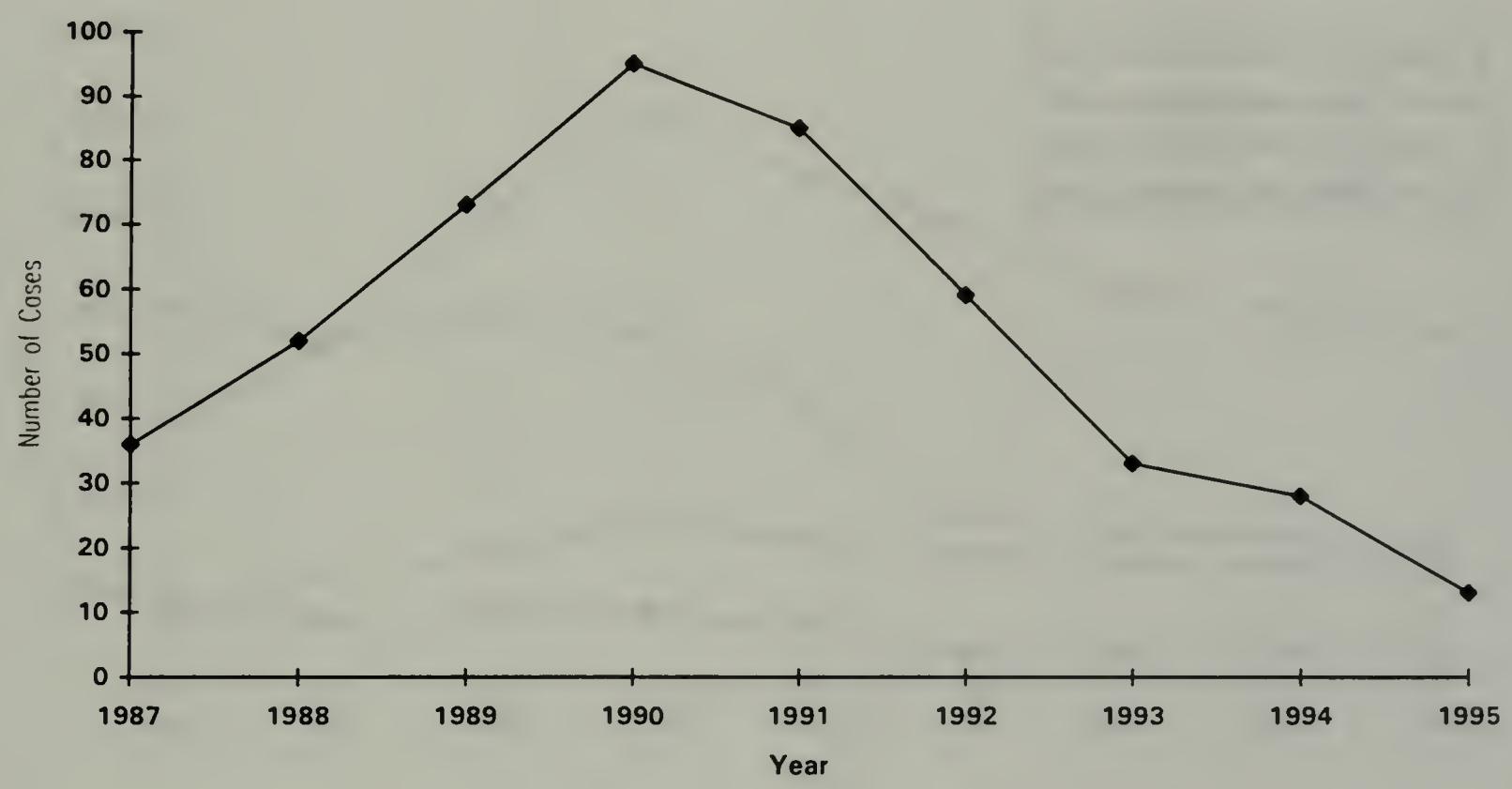
[1] Births to women ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 female residents ages 15 to 19.
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Number of Newly Diagnosed Syphilis Cases for All Ages, Massachusetts: 1987-1995[1]



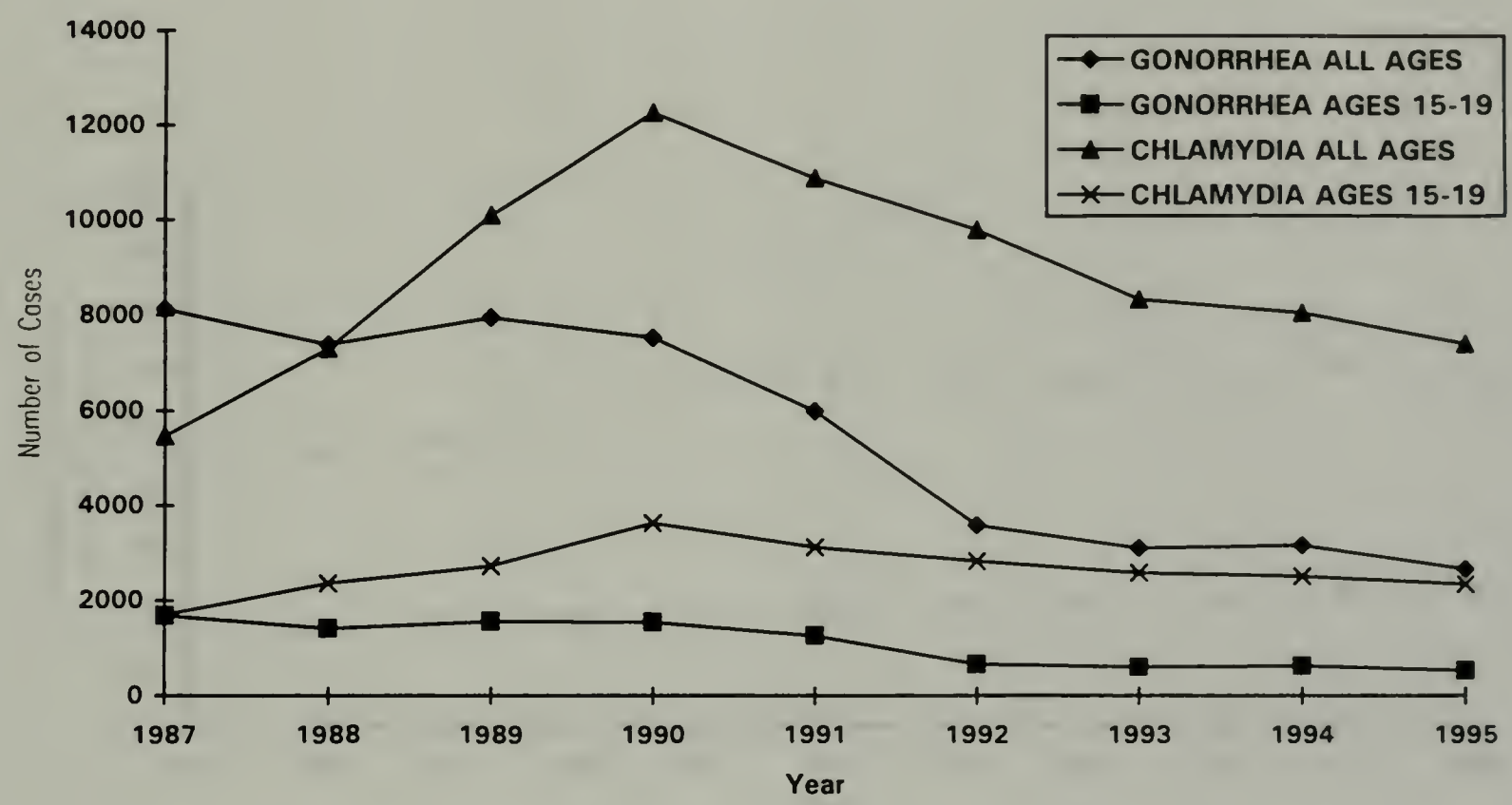
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Number of Newly Diagnosed Syphilis Cases for Ages 15-19
Massachusetts: 1987-1995[1]



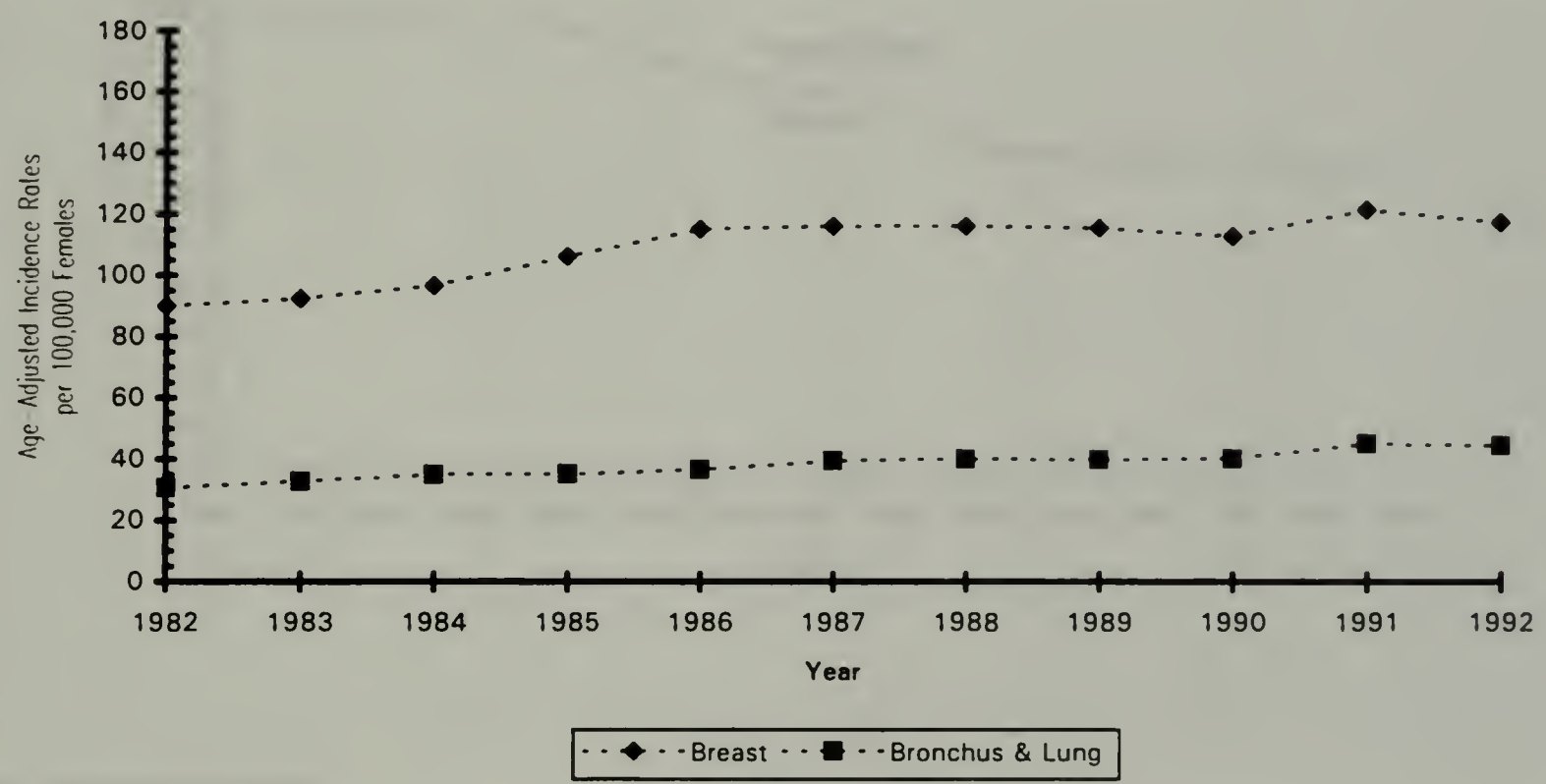
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Newly Diagnosed Cases of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Cases for All Ages and Ages 15-19, Massachusetts: 1987-1995[1]



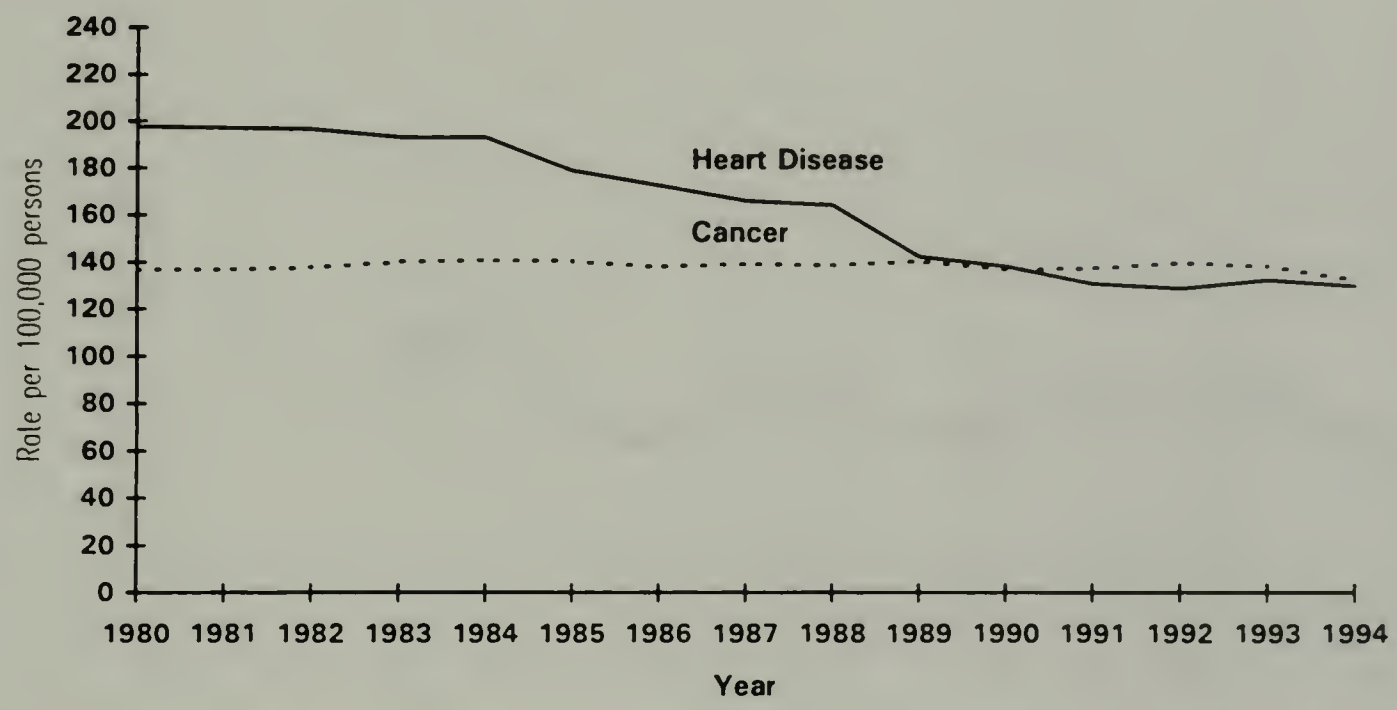
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Breast and Lung Cancer Incidence[1] Trends, 1982-1992[2]
Massachusetts Females



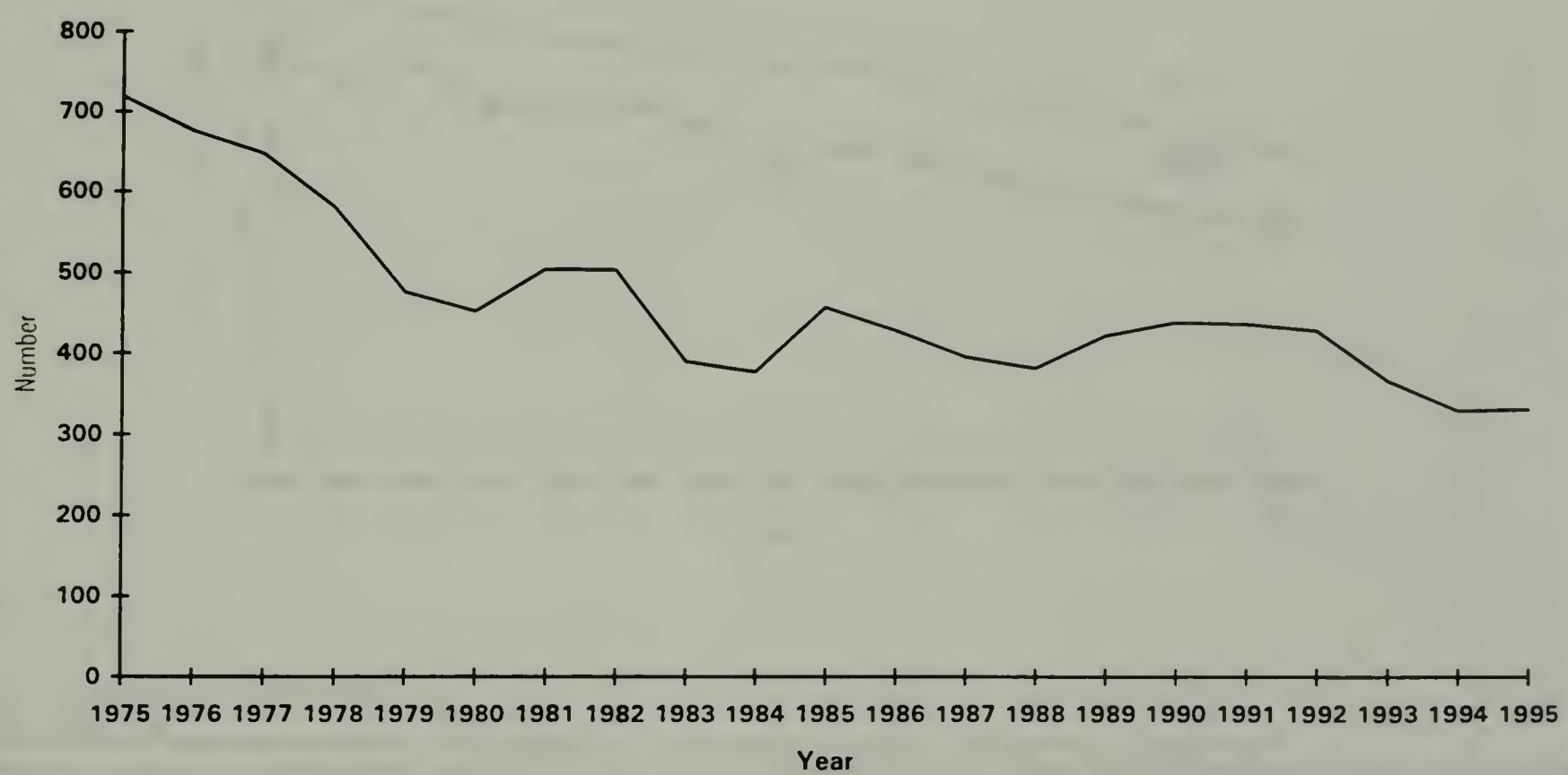
[1] Age-adjusted to the 1970 U.S. Standard Population
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Age-adjusted Death Rates for Heart Disease[1] and Cancer[2]: Massachusetts 1980-1994[3]



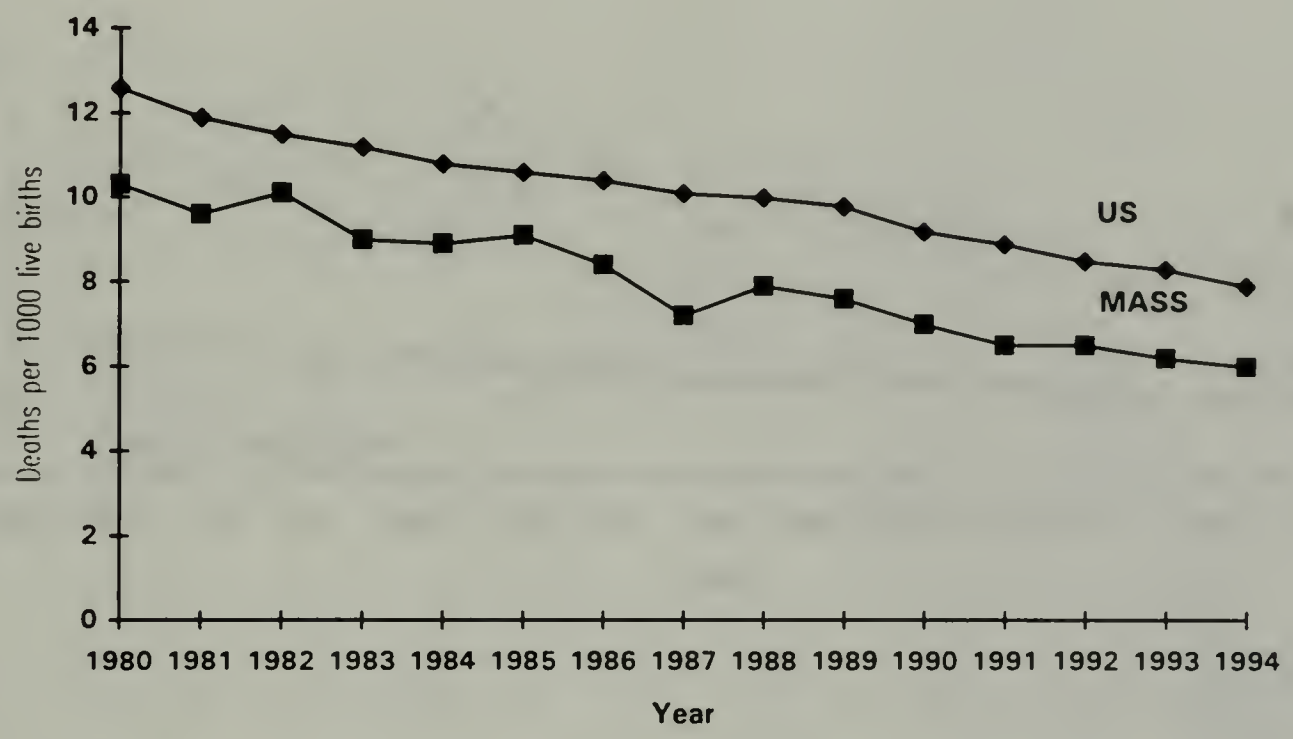
[1] Heart Disease ICD-9 codes 390-398, 402, 404-429
[2] Cancer ICD-9 codes 140-208
[3] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Center for Health Statistics

Number of Newly Diagnosed Tuberculosis Cases
Massachusetts: 1975-1995[1]



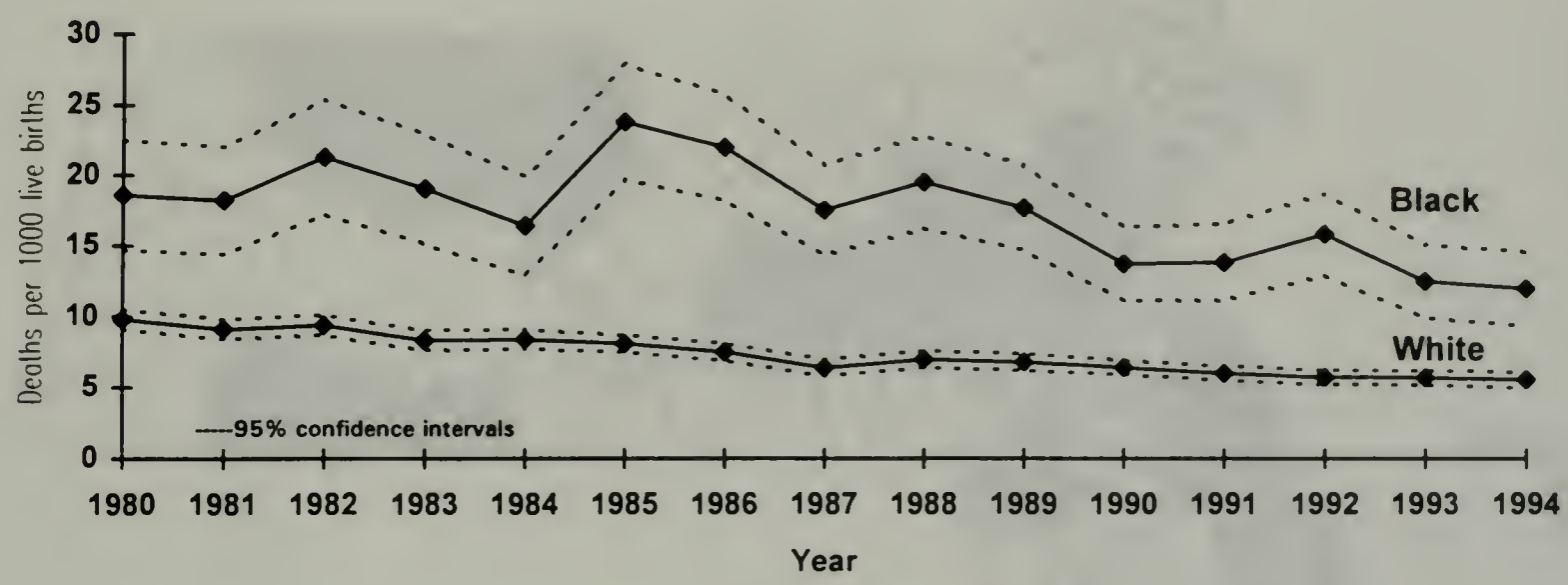
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Infant[1] Mortality Rates
United States and Massachusetts: 1980-1994[2]



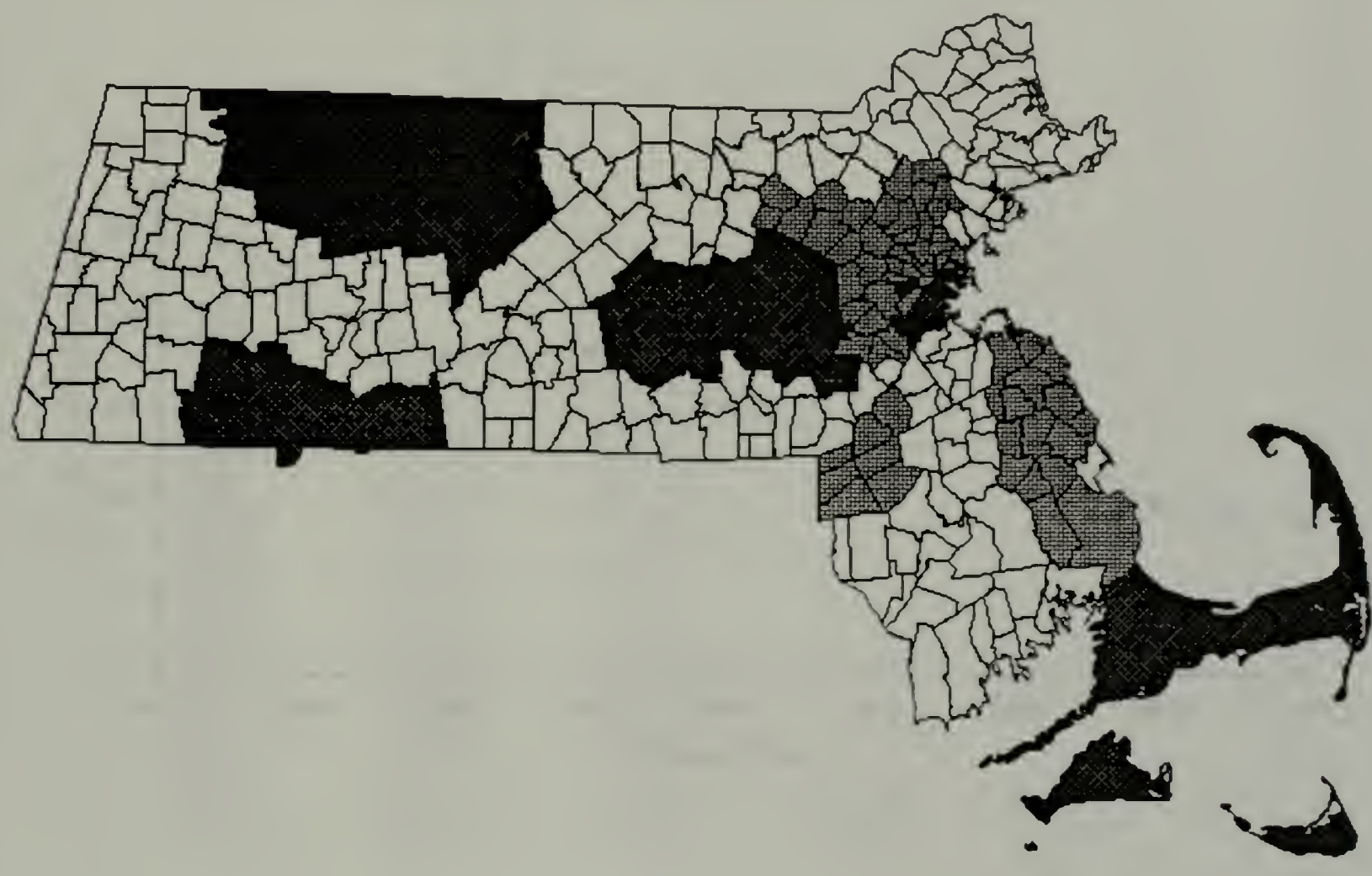
[1] Infant < 1 year of age
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Center for Health Statistics

Infant Mortality[1,2] Rates by Race
Massachusetts: 1980-1994[3]



[1] Infant mortality rates are per 1,000 live births.
[2] Infant: A child less than one year (365 days) old.
For rate computations, infants of unknown race are allocated into the race categories according to the distribution of births of known race.
[3] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

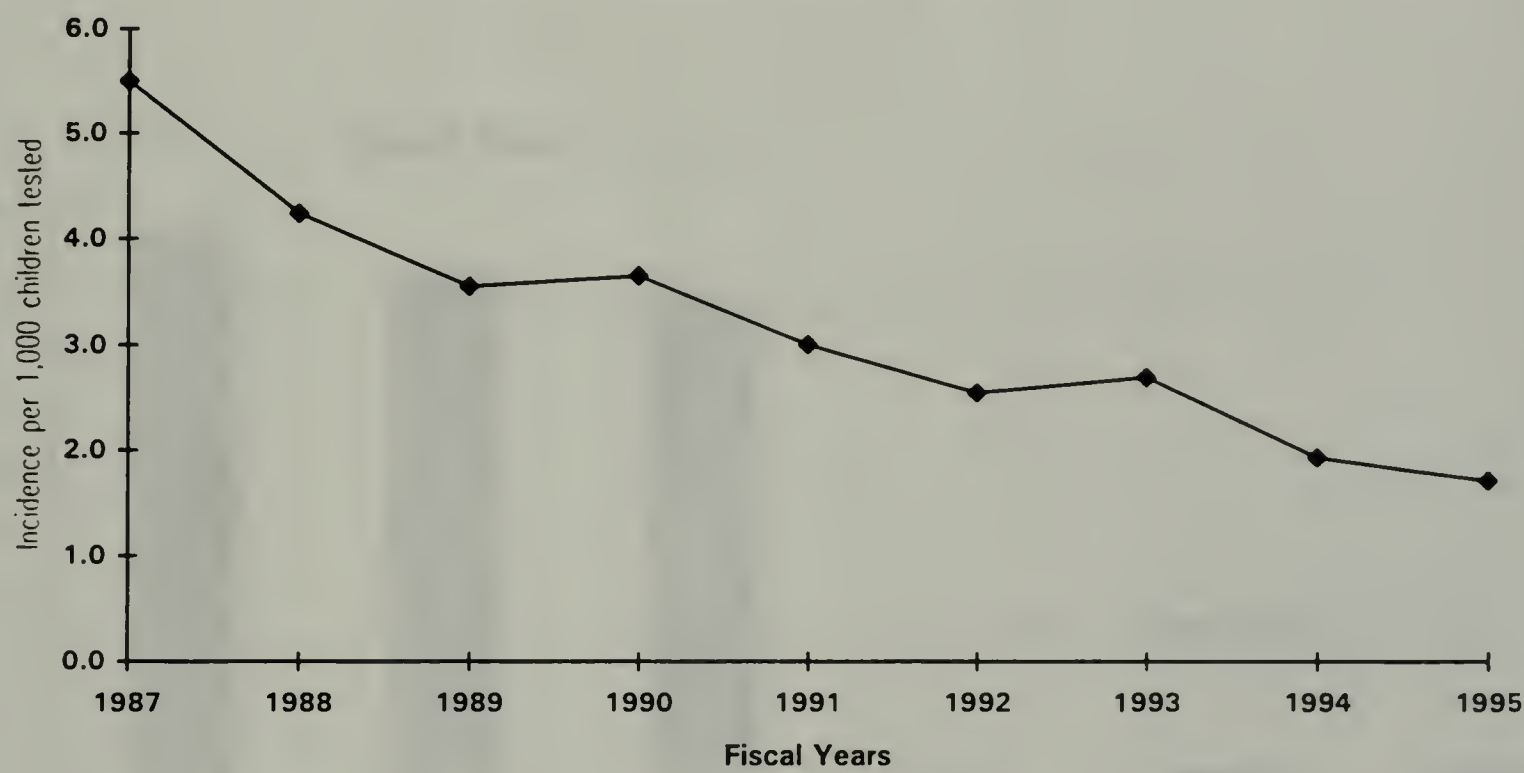
Infant Mortality Rates[1] by Community Health Network Area: 1994[2]



- ■ Fourth Quartile: 7.5 to 10.6
- □ Third Quartile: 5.8 to 7.4
- □ Second Quartile: 4.0 to 5.7
- ■ First Quartile: 1.7 to 3.9

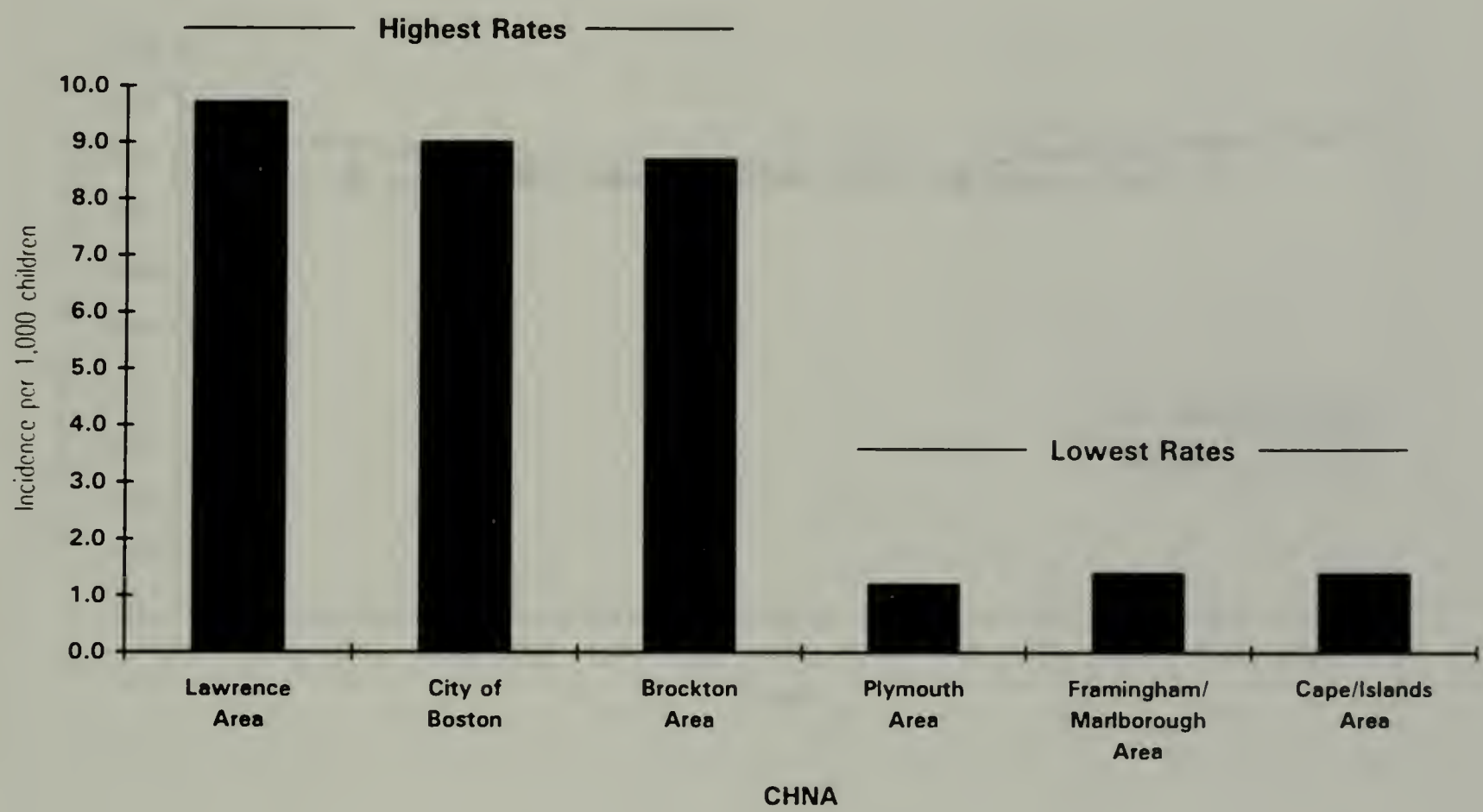
[1] Infant: A child less than one year old. Infant mortality rates are per 1,000 live births.
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Child[1] Lead Poisoning[2] Incidence Rate
Massachusetts Fiscal Years: 1987-1995[3]



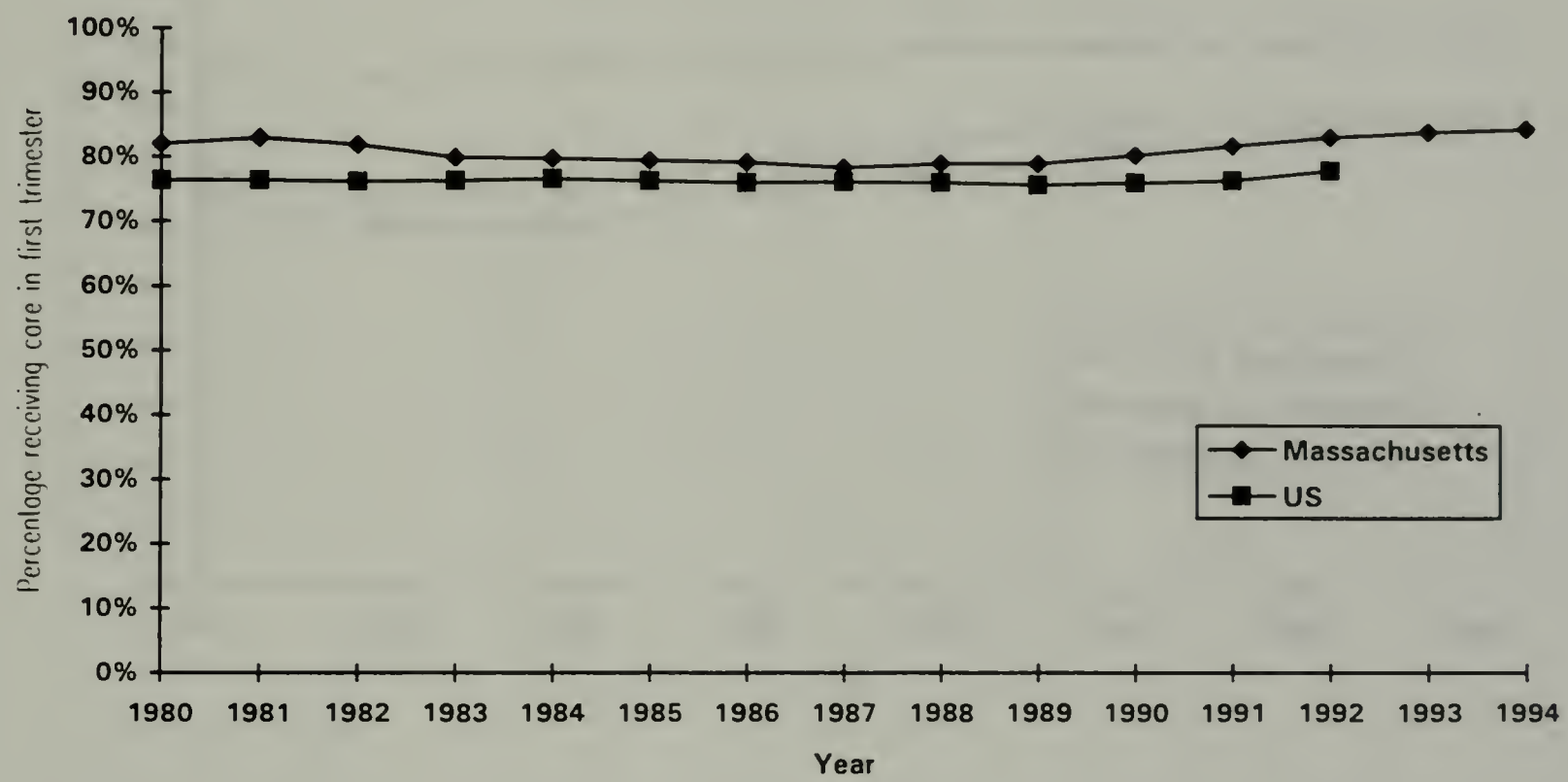
[1] Children ages 6-72 months
[2] 25 mcg/dL or above
[3] Data Source: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Community Health Network Areas with Highest and Lowest Incidence of Child[1] Lead Poisoning[2] Massachusetts Fiscal Year 1995[3]



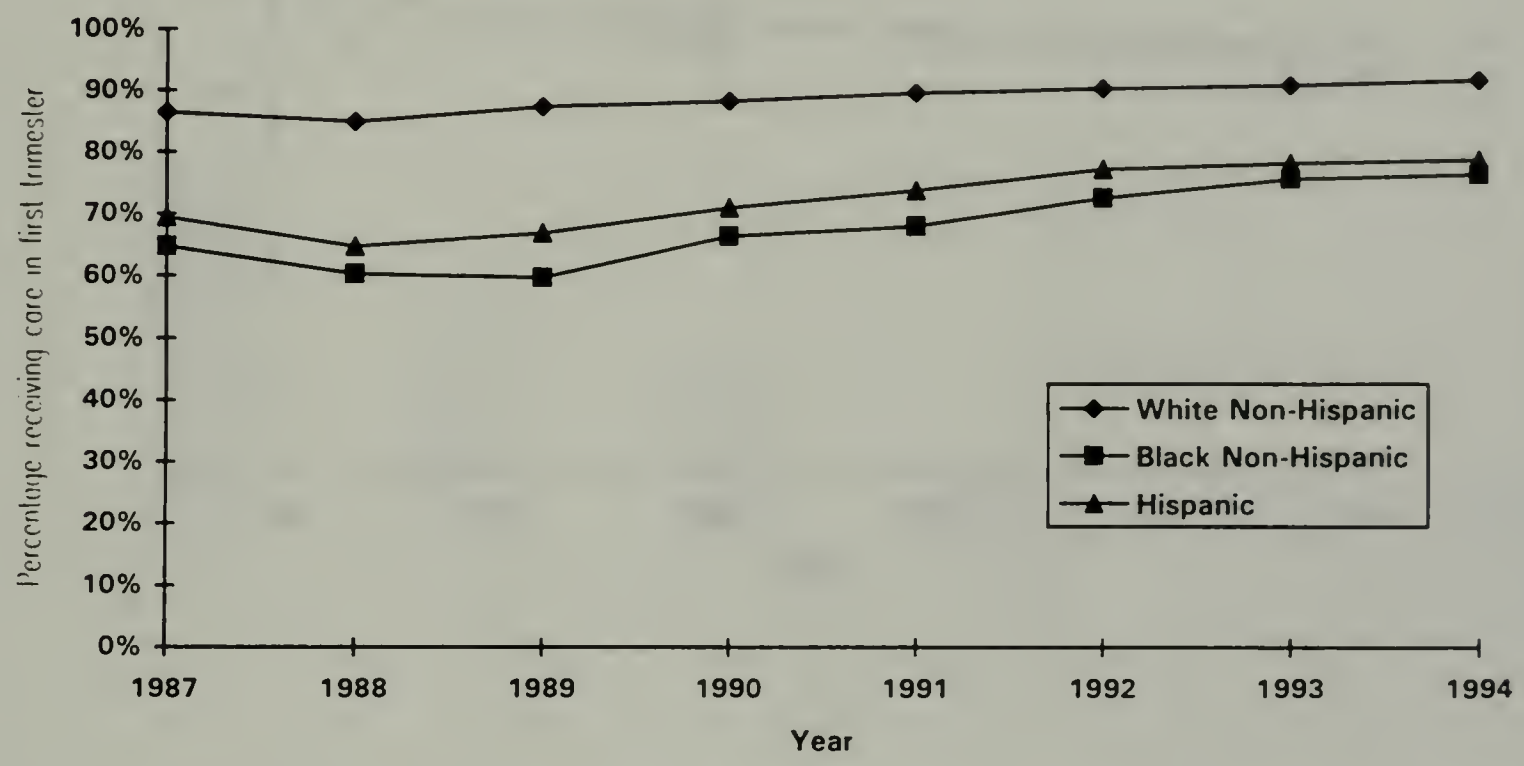
[1] Children ages 6-72 months
[2] 20 mcg/dL or above
[3] Data Source: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Percentage of Mothers Receiving Care in First Trimester Massachusetts and US: 1980-1994[1]



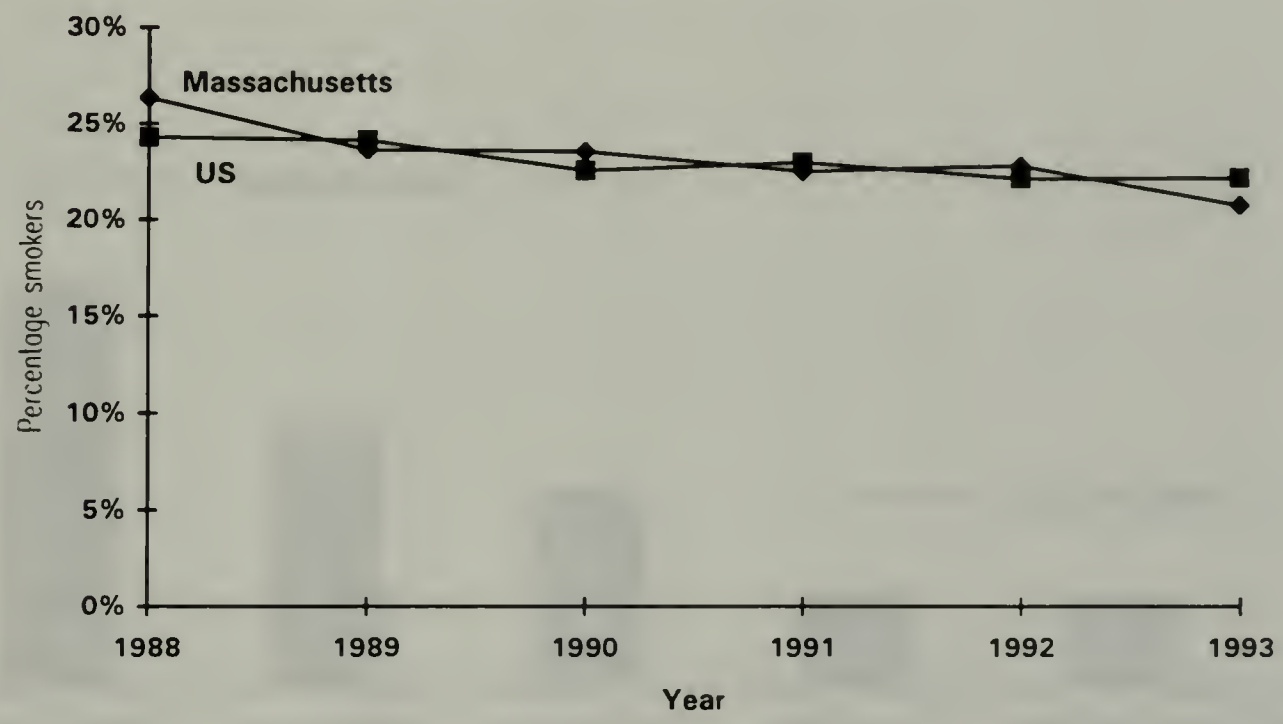
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and National Center for Health Statistics

Percentage of Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester by Race/Ethnicity Massachusetts: 1987-1994[1]



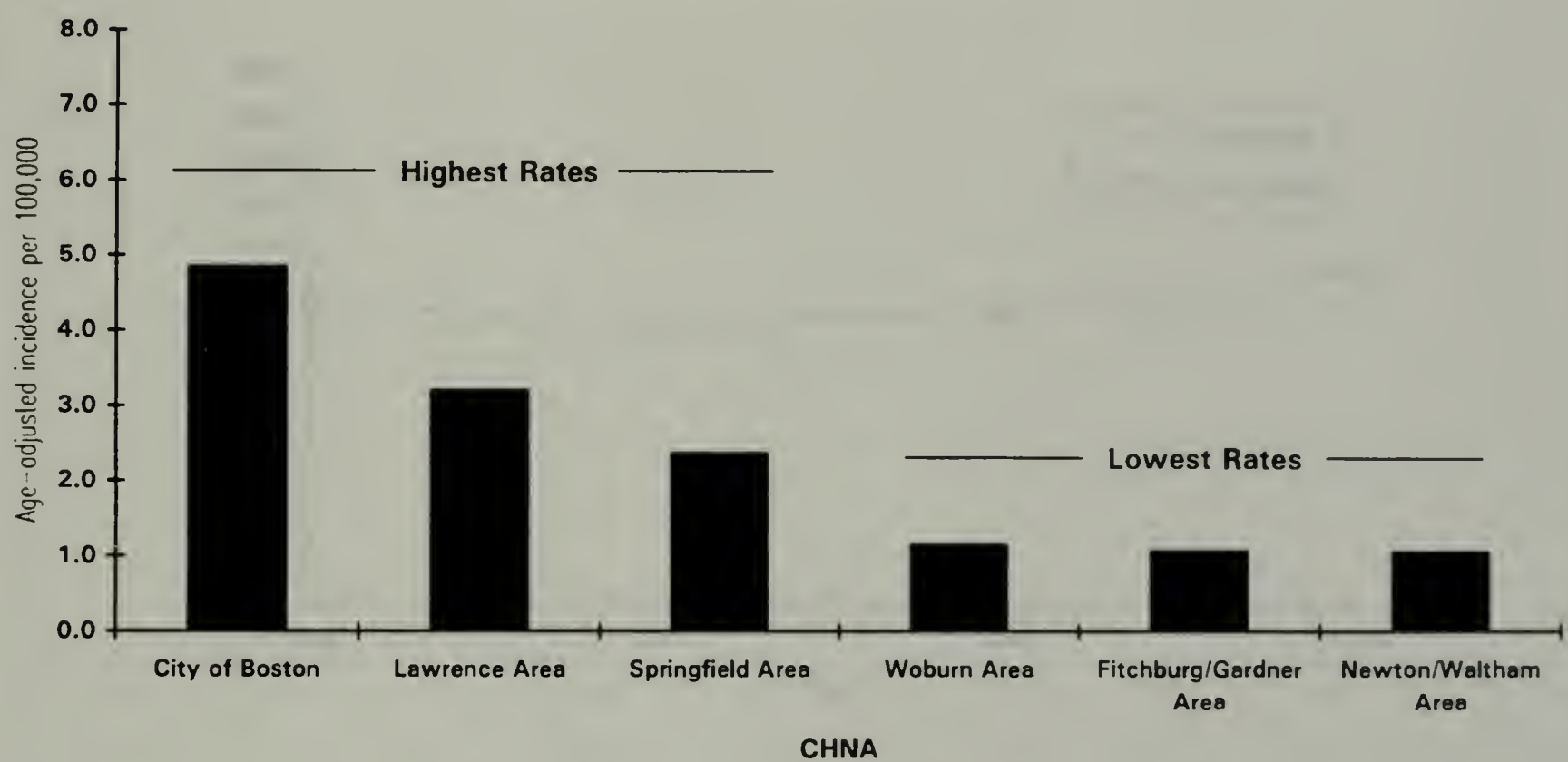
[1] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Percentage of Smokers[1] Among Adults[2] Massachusetts and US: 1988-1993[3]



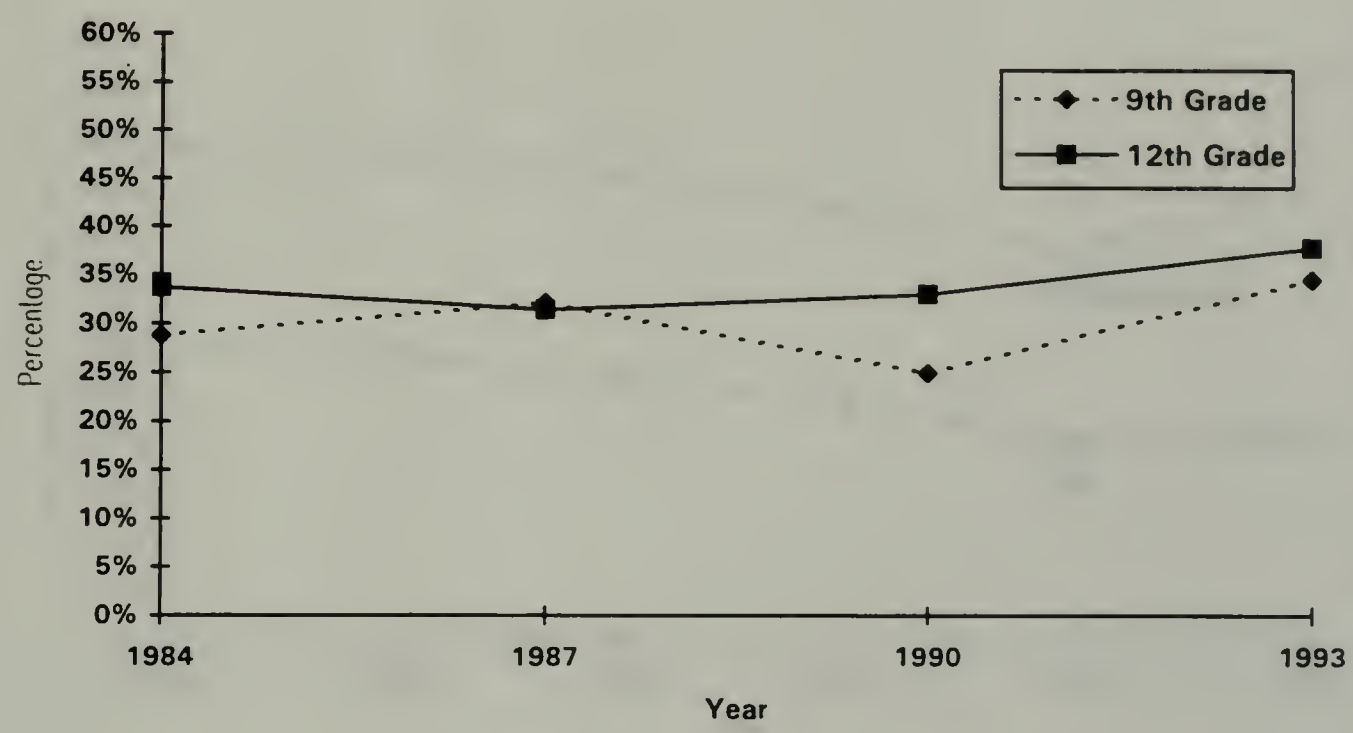
[1] Smoker = smoked at least 100 cigarettes and currently smoker
[2] Adults = ages 18 and older
[3] Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Community Health Network Areas with Highest and Lowest Incidence[1] of Preventable Acute Hospitalizations for Asthma[2] Massachusetts: Fiscal Year 1994[3]



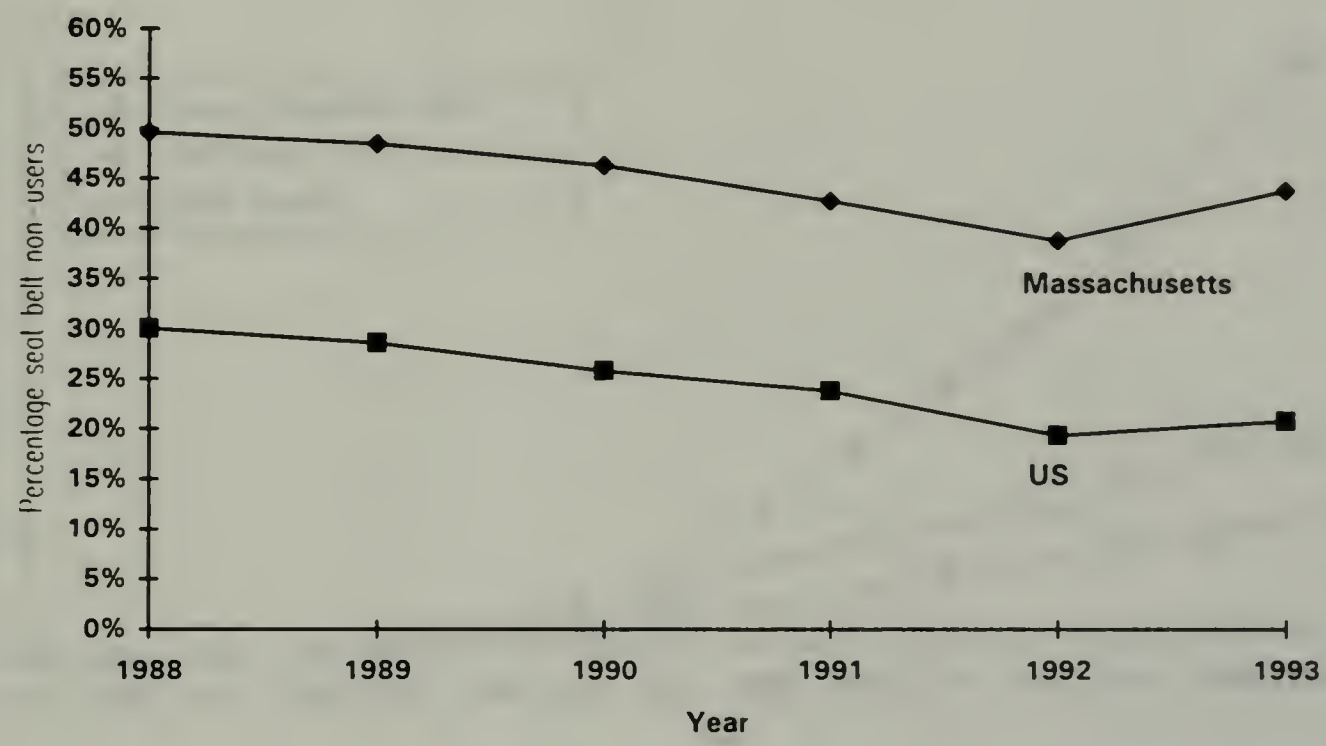
[1] Age-adjusted incidence per 100,000 ages 0-64
[2] ICD-9-CM 493
[3] Data Source: Massachusetts Rate Setting Commission

Percentage of Current Smokers[1] in Grades 9 and 12, Massachusetts: 1984-1993[2]



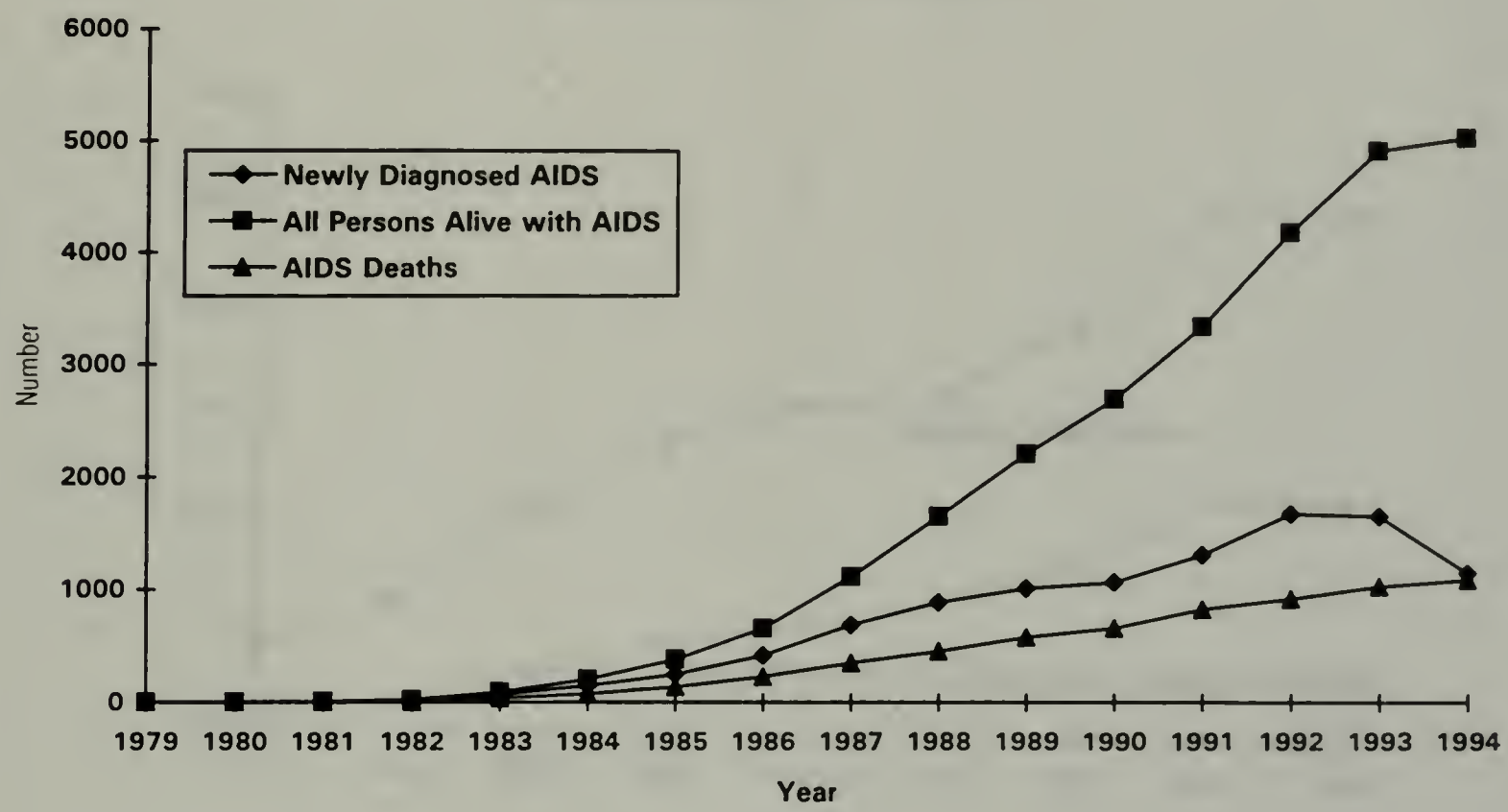
[1] Used cigarettes at least once in 30 days prior to survey
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Percentage of Seat Belt Non-Users[1] Among Adults[2] Massachusetts and US: 1988-1993[3]



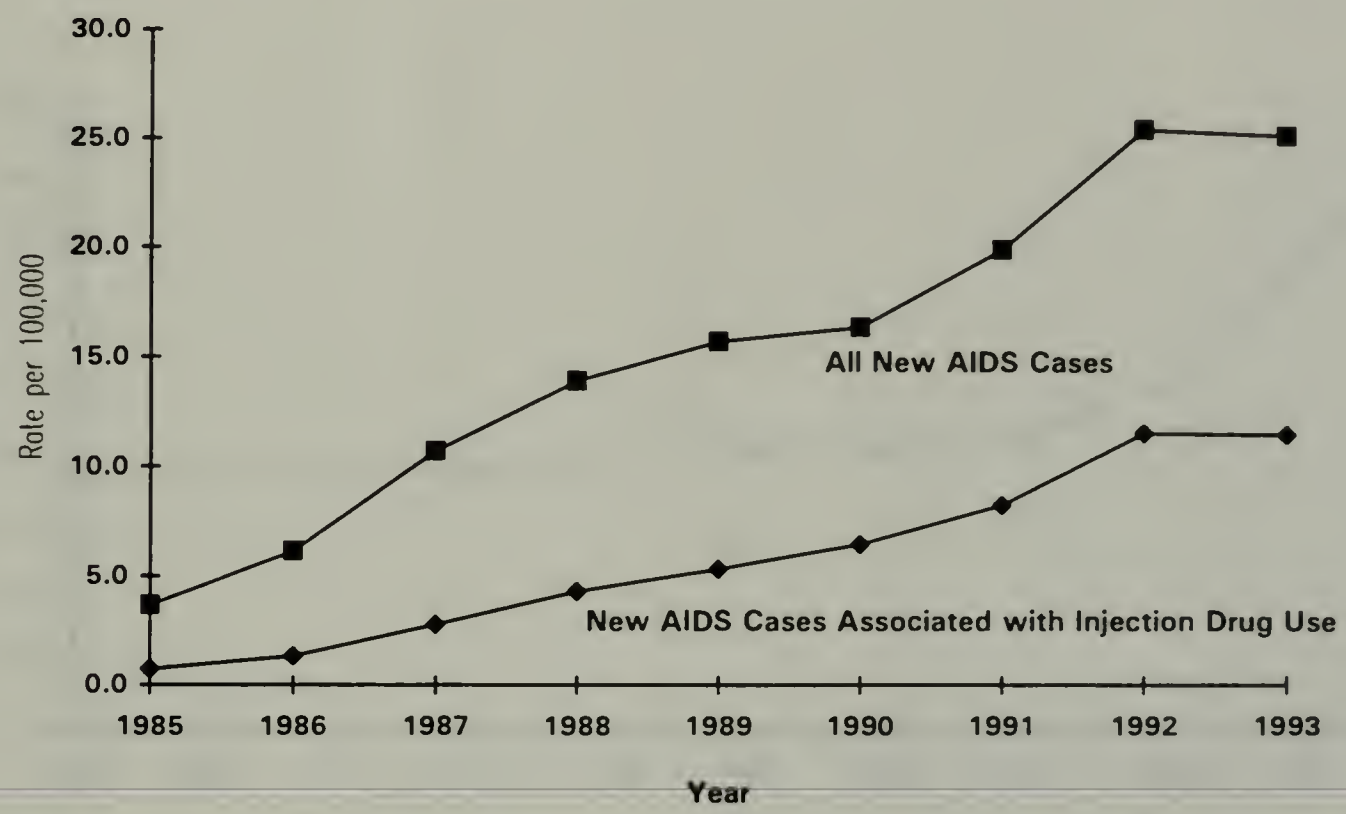
[1] Seat belt non-users = sometimes, seldom, or never use seat belt
[2] Adults = ages 18 and older
[3] Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases, All Persons Alive with AIDS, and AIDS Deaths, Massachusetts: 1980-1994[1]



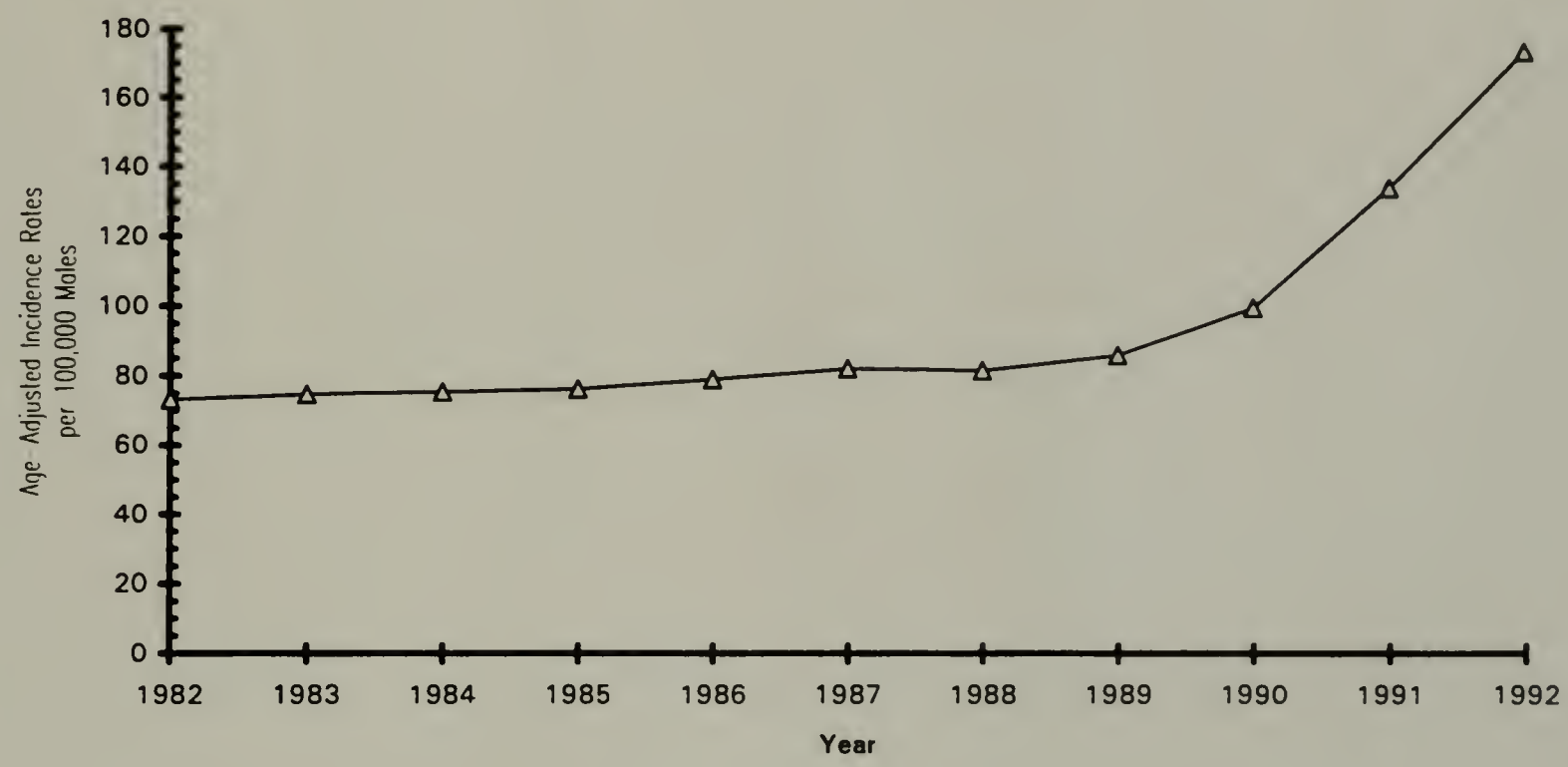
[1] Newly diagnosed AIDS cases and all persons alive with AIDS as of January 1996

All Newly Diagnosed AIDS[1] Cases and Newly Diagnosed AIDS Cases with Injection Drug Use Massachusetts: 1985-1993



[1] Data Source: Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Prostate Cancer Incidence[1] Trends, 1982-1992[2]
Massachusetts Males



[1] Age-adjusted to the 1970 U.S. Standard Population
[2] Data Source: Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health